

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 PC-01 AID-05 EA-06 /075 W

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R 181815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087

INFO AMLIAISON OFFICE PEKING 005

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, DM

SUBJ: VISIT OF GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER TO COTONOU

1. TODAY'S (APRIL 18) OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER DAHO-EXPRESS AND OFFICIAL RADIO FEATURED ENTHUSIASTIC COVERAGE OF VISIT TO COTONOU OF GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHAAK, WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY FROM LOME WITH GRUNK "ROVING AMBASSADOR" CHAN YOURAN.

2. DAHO-EXPRESS SAYS SARIN CHAAK DELIVERED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRINCE SIHANOUK TO PRESIDENT KEREKOU, WHO RECEIVED HIM YESTERDAY.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF SARIN CHAAK'S ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS.

4. COMMENT: PRESS AND RADIO COVERAGE INCLUDED EXTENDED INTERVIEW WITH SARIN CHAAK, WHO THANKED DAHOMEY FOR RECENT DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. REMARKABLE THING ABOUT INTERVIEW WAS THAT, ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS WERE LOADED AGAINST THE USA, THE INTERVIEWER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE USA, AND SARIN CHAAK BECAME EXPLICIT
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ABOUT US ONLY ONCE, WHEN HE SAID THAT "FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNDER AMERICAN IMPERIALIST OCCUPATION, WHICH TRANSFORMED IT INTO A NEO-COLONY."

5. THE RELATCGE RESTRAINT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS REFLECTING (A) CARE ON THE PART OF THE DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING OUR PROTEST TWO WEEKS AGO RE AN ARTICLE BLAMING THE WEST, MOSTLY USG, FOR ALL THE ILLS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND ATTACKING THE PEACE CORPS (COTONOU 456) AND/OR (B) DISCREET HANDLING OF QUESTIONS BY SARIN CHAAK, WHO APPEARED TO BE TRYING CREATE IMPRESSION OF GRUNK DIGNITY, MODERATION AND REASONABLENESS. END COMMENT.
ENGLE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006